

MOTHER OF MERCY HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS BOOK 2012-2013

GENERAL INFORMATION AND POLICIES

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following credits are the **minimum** requirements for graduation:

RELIGION	4	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1/2 (2 Semesters)
ENGLISH	4	HEALTH	1/2
SOCIAL STUDIES	3	FINE ARTS	1
MATHEMATICS	4*	COMPUTER LITERACY	1/2
SCIENCE	3	OTHER SUBJECTS	5 1/2

TOTAL 25

* Students in the Class of 2013 are required to have only 3 credits in Math for graduation.

All students need to pass the five Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT), first administered in March of their sophomore year.

All students are expected to take at least two years of a World Language. A 3rd year is required for acceptance into the National Honor Society.

NUMERICAL GRADES/GPA

Report cards are issued four times a year and use numerical grades according to the following scale. Weighted grades are reflected in the weighted numerical average and on the student transcript.

100-93 = A Excellent Achievement	77-70 = D Poor Achievement
92-85 = B Above Average Achievement	Below 70 = Failing
84-78 = C Average Achievement	

The School calculates an unweighted numerical average and a weighted numerical average and GPA according to a three-weight system of 0, 2, and 4. A "0" weight indicates that the course is not weighted. Instrumental Musical Performance, Handbells, PE, Lifetime Activities, Vocal Ensemble, and Drama are not calculated in the numerical or weighted averages.

The weighted numerical grades are calculated by multiplying the numerical grade by 1.02 or 1.04. For example, a numerical grade of 93% in Advanced Sophomore English is multiplied by 1.02 resulting in a grade of 94.86% (93% + 1.86 = 94.86%).

WEIGHTING SCALE

4 Weight

AP Calculus AB	AP Drawing	AP US History (American Studies)
AP Calculus BC	AP 2-D Design	AP English Language and Composition (American Studies)
AP Biology	AP 3-D Design	AP English Literature and Composition (World Literature)
AP Physics B	AP Government/Politics	

2 Weight

Adv Chemistry	Adv Sophomore English	Advanced Acting
Adv Geometry/Alg 2	Spanish 4/5	Statistics 1 & 2
Pre-Calculus	French 4/5	Senior Art
Herstory		

COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Admission requirements for post high school educational institutions have become quite varied. Many require specific “college preparatory” subjects for admission and often have additional requirements for a particular program. Each school and/or program that a student may be considering should be checked for specific requirements early in the student’s high school career to insure that she is taking the appropriate high school courses.

The state-supported colleges in Ohio have adopted a program by the Ohio Board of Regents for “admission without conditions” for four-year baccalaureate programs. The “**minimum core**” curriculum consists of successful completion of the following during high school:

- 4 credits in English
- 3 credits in Social Studies
- 4 credits in Mathematics (3 for the class of 2013)
- 3 credits in Science
- 2 credits in World Languages
- 1 credit in Fine Arts

Some of these institutions may also specify a particular grade average in class as part of their admission requirements for particular programs. Ohio residents not meeting these requirements will be admitted “with conditions” which may include additional work taken at the college.

Private, two-year technical, and community colleges have their own individual requirements and may be quite different from the Ohio state-supported college requirements.

SCHEDULING POLICIES

- A student must have a minimum number of credits counted toward graduation to advance to the next grade. If a student does not meet this minimum credit requirement, the principal will determine whether she may return to Mercy or the condition under which she can return.

6	credits to be a sophomore
12	credits to be a junior
18 1/2	credits to be a senior

- Each student must carry 14 semesters of academic work each year unless extended lab time is part of her course work. In this situation only 12 semesters are required. Any student taking minimal credits each year must earn an additional 1/2 credit before graduation. A total of 25 credits is needed. Registration for courses is based on ability, achievement, interest and/or recommendation.
- Scheduling of courses is determined by availability of space in both the student’s schedule and also in the class. Every effort will be made to honor the student’s course requests. Students should list alternates for elective courses. If a student has a conflict in the scheduling of her requests that cannot be resolved by using her alternate courses, she will be contacted in May to make an adjustment.
- Schedules are mailed in mid August. If there is an error on the student’s schedule and a correction is needed she must contact the Guidance Office *prior to the first day of school*. Specific days/times set aside for correcting errors are announced in August when students receive their schedules.
- If a student would like to insert an additional class into her schedule she must see her counselor during the first week of the semester.
- Each student should consider more than course load when making her selections. She needs to take into account time devoted to participation in co-curricular clubs and activities, athletics, volunteer work, part time employment and other time consuming activities. Colleges and high schools throughout the country state that the maximum number of hours a student should work outside school is 15 per week; most recommend 12 or fewer. The student should plan ahead and be realistic about the demands she places on herself.
- The school reserves the right to cancel any course that does not have sufficient registration. It is not the school’s policy to schedule a student to be free for the last part of the day in order to go to work.

- Students may take courses and receive credit from accredited academic programs outside Mother of Mercy. These courses may fulfill a requirement for graduation only after a student consults with her Guidance Counselor and receives the approval of the Administration. It is recommended that students take no more than one course per department in this manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are many courses listed in this booklet which require the recommendation of a teacher. If a course is *recommended*, the teacher feels that with appropriate work the student has every opportunity to be successful. All recommendations are based on student records and/or past performances. Although discouraged, it is possible for a student to enroll in a class for which she has not been recommended. In this case, the student must consult her teacher to obtain an academic waiver form that must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to her teacher. Both student and parents assume full responsibility for the selection of a course that has not been recommended.

WITHDRAWALS FROM COURSES

A student may withdraw from a class only for exceptional reasons and with the recommendation of the teacher and the approval of the Guidance Department but not prior to the end of the first quarter of the class. If a withdrawal occurs, the course is carried on the transcript with a “WP” or “WF”, indicating a passing or failing grade at the time of withdrawal. No course may be dropped beyond two weeks after the first report card for a first semester course or beyond two weeks after the third quarter report card for a second semester or full year course.

FAILURES

If a student fails a specific course required for graduation, it should be taken in summer school. If summer school is not possible, then it must be resolved in a subsequent year. If an elective credit(s) is needed for graduation, a course may be substituted either in summer school or during a school year prior to graduation. If the course is taken during the school year, it is in addition to the regular required program. It is the student’s responsibility to see that any loss of credit is resolved in an acceptable way. She should consult with her counselor regarding the alternatives.

STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Mother of Mercy High School has always practiced full inclusion for students with disabilities. The educational requirements of students with disabilities are the same as those that do not have disabilities. Students with an Individual Service Plan (ISP) are given accommodations and services in accordance with their educational needs, enabling them to thrive. These may include tutoring, coursework support, diagnostic testing, extended examination and testing periods, computer resources and tests read by a tutor. Students with learning disabilities are usually identified before they reach high school. However, testing is available through our school psychologist for those suspected of having a disability. Students that qualify for and receive accommodations may be eligible to receive those accommodations on OGT/ACT/SAT tests. Contact the Guidance Office for more information.

COURSE LEVELS

Mother of Mercy High School offers courses at various degrees of difficulty. Students are recommended for the various levels based upon ability, motivation and recommendation of teachers and the school guidance department.

- **ADVANCED PLACEMENT** courses are designed for the academically gifted who also possess strong academic background, advanced research skills, consistently high levels of motivation and willingness to self-start and work independently. Content is college level, demanding the highest levels of critical thinking - analysis, application, evaluation, decision making, complex problem solving - both individually and in group situations.

Advanced Placement is a national program providing college level courses for secondary school students. A.P. candidates are given credit and/or advanced placement when the A.P. exam results are considered acceptable by a prospective college. Students advance to A.P. classes after their sophomore year.

Mother of Mercy offers the opportunity for students to take A.P. designated courses in Drawing, 2-D Design, 3-D Design, Biology, Physics B, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, American Government/Politics and United States History. Students enrolled in A.P. courses are expected to take the A.P. exam at the end of the course unless enrolled for dual credit. Students may prepare on an individual basis for an A.P. test in subjects that are not taught as part of the A.P. program at Mercy, such as French or Spanish.

- **ADVANCED** courses are designed for students with superior ability and high motivation. They are fast paced, often including a research component. They require a more sophisticated reading and writing competency, strong problem solving proficiency and keen ability to analyze data and engage in self-initiated and independent learning. Once a student is placed in advanced courses she is expected to continue in that level or advance to A.P. courses, if so recommended.
- **HONORS 2 and 1** courses challenge students with an in-depth accelerated curriculum of reading, writing, speaking, problem solving, research, technological and laboratory skills. The course content is above grade level and the pacing is faster than their college prep counterparts. Students are required to read and write critically, engage in challenging problem solving activities and display higher levels of thinking. Students are placed in either of these levels based on their records as incoming freshmen. While the Honors 2 level is more challenging than Honors 1, students from both sections can and do qualify for advanced courses based on their freshmen year performance.
- **COLLEGE PREP 2** courses are designed for students whose needs are best met by a standard college prep curriculum on grade level. These courses fully meet the basic standards required by most university and post secondary school areas of study. The courses incorporate language skills, research, technological and problem solving skills as tools in both high school and post-high school endeavors.
- **COLLEGE PREP 1** courses cover the same essential material as College Preparatory 2 and also meet the standards required for most university and post high school areas of study. However, they are designed for those students who will benefit from more systematic and continuous attention to strengthening basic skills in the particular subject areas. In some cases students may receive support in reading, writing, math, science and social studies skills through Auxiliary Services and/or tutoring.

SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The following are available for students to earn Mercy high school credits during the summer:

COURSES OFFERED BY MERCY (see descriptions, dates and fees listed in the Department areas in this booklet)

Physical Education (1/4 PE credit)

Cincinnati (1/2 credit in Social Studies) - online learning and field trips

MERCY LEARNING ONLINE (MLOL)

The Network for Mercy Education is an organization committed to serve and connect the 41 Mercy high schools across the Americas. Courses are designed and taught by teachers in Mercy schools across the country and the availability may vary each year. Students taking an online course with the Network for Mercy Education will follow all policies that apply to courses already taught at Mercy. The Guidance Department will handle registration for these courses.

Available courses for the summer of 2012 (June 18 - July 20) All are 1/2 credit courses.

703C Art History

948 Introduction to Psychology

871C Speech

947C Economics

950C Sociology

320C Health – (Students are required to attend classes on June 12, 13, and 14 from 5:00 - 9:00pm)

For students in the class of 2016 (June 18 - July 13)

100C Developing Pre Algebra Skills - no credit

Fees: \$255 per half credit course
\$150 pre-algebra skills class

DUAL CREDIT

Students who are taking specific Advanced Level/ Advanced Placement courses have the opportunity to receive college credit directly from Thomas More College or the College of Mt. St. Joseph in addition to high school credit from Mercy. These credits may be transferred to other colleges upon graduation.

Arrangements currently exist for AP Biology, AP English Literature and Composition, AP American History, AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC, French 4, Herstory, and Advanced Acting. Other courses are being actively explored in other disciplines and with other universities. An additional fee is charged per credit hour for each course.

These fees (\$45 – 60 per credit hour) are substantially below what college credits cost and in most cases, replaces the cost of the Advanced Placement Exam (approx \$90).

Registration takes place in the first or second class meeting of each semester. Payment is due at the time of registration.

This is an optional but wonderful opportunity for students to receive college AND high school credit simultaneously! See your Guidance Counselor and the teacher of each class for more specific information, costs and procedures.

CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

“Ohio’s plan for the credit flexibility is designed to broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, increase depth of study available for a particular subject and tailor the learning time or conditions as needed. In these ways, students can customize aspects of their learning around more of their interests and needs.” from the Ohio Department of Education website

With Credit Flex, high school students can now earn credit in three ways:

Option #1: By completing traditional coursework.

Currently the primary method utilized at Mercy.

Option #2: By testing out or otherwise demonstrating mastery of the course content.

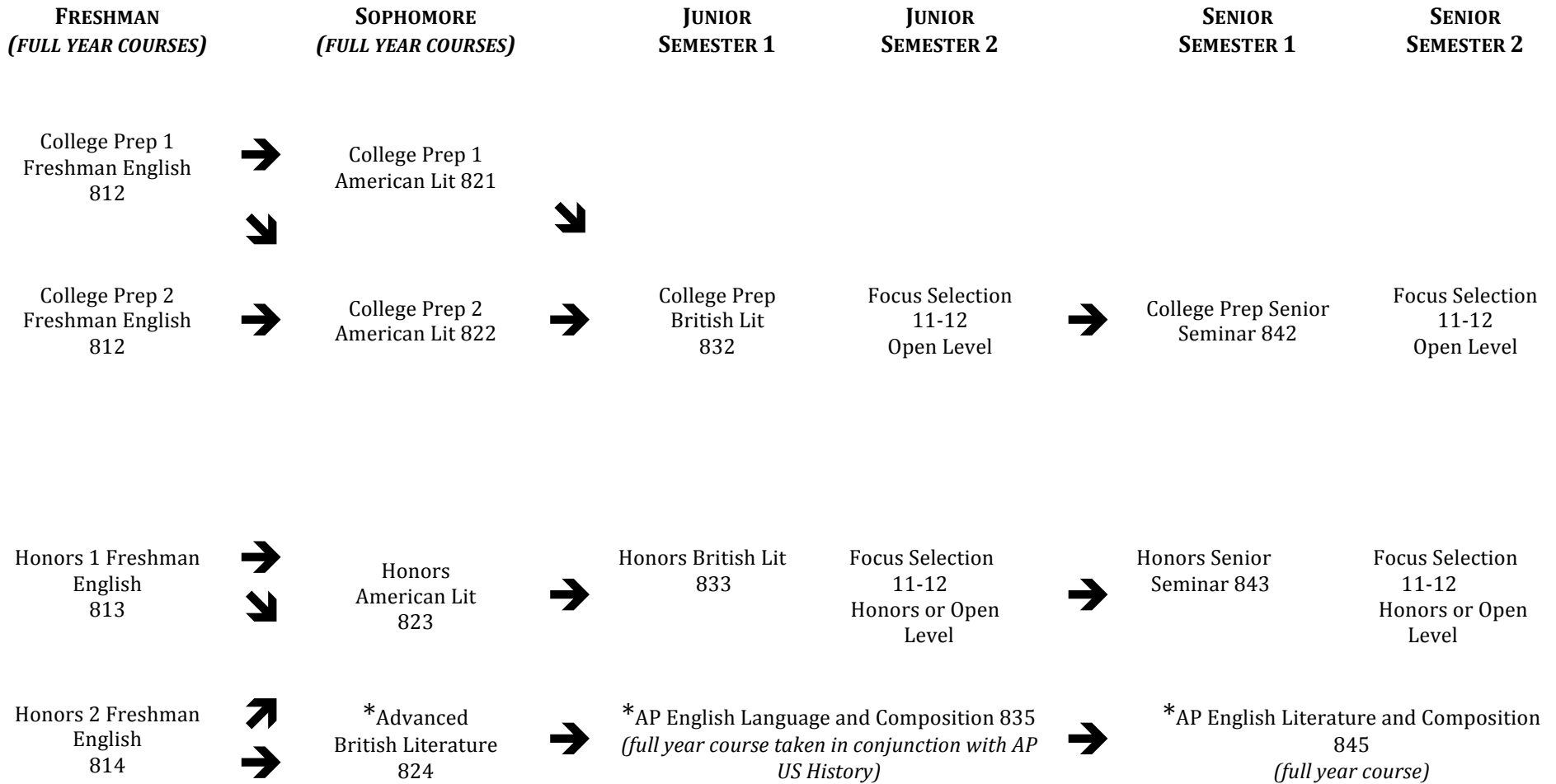
May be initiated by a student or a guidance counselor when students are participating in a program/course that does not award high school credit but follows a recognized course syllabus (e.g. Algebra 1, Spanish 1 at elementary/middle schools). Students may be asked to take some form of written and/or oral assessment to assure mastery of content. No additional fee is charged.

Option#3: By pursuing one or more educational options (e.g. college courses, distance learning, educational travel, independent study, an internship, community service, etc.)

Student must submit a written plan indicating the rationale, goals, and objectives, learning methodologies, means of assessment and supervision for this credit flex option. It is recommended that this plan be submitted at least eight weeks prior to the proposed start date of this educational option plan. A committee composed of her guidance counselor, an administrator and a teacher from the discipline of study will review the plan, suggest possible changes and approve or deny the request. An appeals board will be established in the event that a student is denied participation. A formal adult supervisor/mentor is required for any approved plan. The student is responsible for all fees related to her learning plan. In order for a credit to be issued for a graduation requirement, all required course content as outlined in Mercy’s graded course of studies must be met. The designation of whether the credit issued is for a graduation requirement or an elective credit is at the discretion of the review committee. While “seat time” is not a mandated for credit, it might provide a useful guide for the student in developing her learning plan. The review committee, in consultation with the adult supervisor/mentor, will assign a grade upon completion. It is a policy of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that religion classes may not be taken in this manner. Mercy does not permit students to graduate in less than 4 years. There is an additional fee up to \$500 per credit based upon the extent of a Mercy teacher’s responsibility in the educational option plan.

Please see your Guidance Counselor for more information and an application.

ENGLISH CURRICULUM



*with faculty recommendation

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English curriculum is a blend of breadth and depth in language arts. Required full year courses in the 9th and 10th grades survey the essential elements of specific literary genres, composition and skill development. Included in these courses are special thematic units offered at age- and ability- appropriate levels. Capitalizing on student interest areas, these special units will challenge students to look deeply into a subject from many perspectives, thereby increasing critical thinking skills.

In the 11th and 12th grade years students will study the traditional language arts elements first semester and will choose a second semester course from among several popular and timely Focused Selections. Regardless of the specific subject addressed, each Focused Selection will be composed of all elements of a sound language arts program: composition, grammar, critical reading, oral expression, fiction and non-fiction literature, technology, research, and standardized test preparation. This curriculum affords students several advantages over a more traditional program. It offers flexibility and easy movement among difficulty levels as well as increased involvement of parents and students in the scheduling process. A student, for example, may opt to occasionally reach for a more challenging course in a subject area of interest. In addition, this arrangement of topics encourages integration with courses in other departments, fostering transfer and enrichment of concepts and skills across the entire school curriculum.

For students for whom language arts are a special interest and gift, Mercy offers a four-year program of accelerated study. For these students each course is a full-year curriculum featuring a more challenging reading list, more intense emphasis on critical thinking in reading and writing, and a more analytical approach to literary criticism. Research skills, technology, and oral facility are included. Special aspects of the Focused Selection Courses are woven into the advanced curriculum at the appropriate challenge level.

REQUIRED COURSES:

FRESHMAN ENGLISH: LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Levels: 811—College Prep 1	812—College Prep 2	
Grade 9	Required	Full year
		1 credit

Placement based on records

This required year of Freshman English is a skills-based course intended to give students the fundamental skills necessary to succeed in high school. The curriculum covers composition (essay styles and writing development), grammar (mechanics and usage), reading skills (vocabulary development, comprehension, critical analysis), oral language skills, technology applications, and varied genres of literature. Special in-depth academic units included: 811—Pop Fiction; 812—Mystery / Science Fiction and Dramatic Literature; 813—Myths & Legends and Women in Literature.

FRESHMAN ENGLISH: LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Level: 813—Honors 1	814 – Honors 2	
Grade 9	Required	Full year
		1 credit

Placement based on records.

These levels will introduce students to advanced-level high school work and can lead to Advanced Placement courses in subsequent years at Mercy. The thrust of the course is analyzing the component parts of fiction, nonfiction, drama, poetry, composition, research, oral language and technology in order to improve critical language skills. Special in-depth academic units included: Dramatic Literature and Women In Literature, re-formatted for them at a level appropriate for advanced study.

SOPHOMORE ENGLISH: AMERICAN LIT. AND COMPOSITION

Levels: 821—College Prep 1, 822—College Prep 2, 823—Honors		
Grade 10	Required	Full year
		1 credit

Placement determined jointly by faculty and student

The American experience has been rich and varied. In this course students trace the literature of America's earliest people to those in the present. Historical events, societal issues and philosophical thoughts all influence the writing of the people. These will be examined chronologically, tracing the development of American thought and dreams. In response, students will interact with the literature to analyze thoughts, mimic style, and deepen their own understanding of what it means to be an American. A research paper, refining technology skills, will be required and vocabulary building and the use of grammar in writing will be stressed. Evaluations will include both written and oral response, individual as well as group projects, as well as tests and quizzes. Appropriate texts and assessments will be used for the different levels of the course. Special in-depth academic units included: 821—Adventures in Literature; 822—Journeys; 823 Dramatic Literature.

ADVANCED SOPHOMORE ENGLISH: BRITISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Level: 824—Advanced (2 weight)

Grade 10 Required Full Year 1 credit

Placement determined by faculty recommendation.

This course will explore the rich heritage of culture and literature from the British Isles, beginning with their roots in the Medieval Period, working chronologically through the Renaissance, Romantic and Victorian eras, and culminating with contemporary selections. Students will hone their skills in critical thinking and analysis through expository and persuasive essays, some of which will involve research. Students enrolling in this course will be expected to complete summer assignments, including two novels, an essay response, some informal responses on Blackboard, and some vocabulary study. One of the novels may be replaced by the “One Book, One Community” selection. Specific assignments will be given prior to the end of the school year.

JUNIOR ENGLISH: BRITISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

LEVELS: 832—College Prep , 833—Honors

Grade 11 Required First Semester 1/2 credit

Placement determined jointly by faculty and student

This required semester of British Literature will explore the rich heritage of culture and literature written in English, beginning with their roots in the Medieval Period, working chronologically through the Renaissance, Romantic and Victorian eras, and culminating with contemporary selections. The course will include responsible research, college essay and test preparation, and critical analysis. Students will choose a Focused Selection to study second semester.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (American Studies)

Levels: 835 AP (Scheduled with AP US History 935 - 4 weight)

Grade 11 Required Year 1 credit

Placement determined by faculty recommendation

This course is an advanced placement option for those students planning on taking the AP English Language and Composition test and the AP U.S. History test. This two-semester, two-block option integrates the study of American literature and history into one course, revealing how literature is both a product of the historical time period and a factor which shapes history. We begin the course with Native American literature and the literature of the early colonists and end by surveying the broad range of modern American fiction, poetry and drama. Because this is an advanced placement course, a great deal of emphasis will be placed on analysis and research. Students will be expected to respond both orally and in writing to the literature they have read and to draw upon both the work itself and their knowledge of the historical time period to support their response. Students enrolling in this course will be expected to complete summer assignments, including three novels, and brief written work associated with the novels. One of the novels will be the “One Book, One Community” selection. Specific assignments will be given prior to the end of the school year.

SENIOR ENGLISH SEMINAR

Levels: 842—College Prep, 843—Honors

Grade 12 Required First semester 1/2 credit

Placement determined jointly by faculty and student

This course will polish the language skills of former English courses and prepare students for post-Mercy life and learning. Featured are blended literary and nonfiction thematic units based on today’s issues: poverty, capital punishment, literacy, racism, politics, and social justice. Students will explore how the language arts have depicted these issues and will use the filtering lens of Catholic Social Teaching and the Mercy values to discuss and shape informed views on today’s world. Toward this end, students will draw upon their experience and knowledge of these issues in senior Religion and Social Studies courses. The course will also guide students through the college application and entrance test process. Students will choose a Focused Selection to study second semester.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION (World Literature)

Level: 845 AP (4 weight)

Grade 12 Required Full Year 1 credit

Placement determined by faculty recommendation

This course represents the final challenging step in the Advanced English curriculum. It will begin with ancient Greek and Roman traditions and work through orally-derived literature from Africa and the Near East, culminating in a survey of the

gender are perceived in film, how the film industry has changed during its history, and how literature is adapted and presented. Critical analysis, research and formulating viewpoints are crucial to this course. Offered every year.

HERSTORY/WOMEN'S STUDIES

Course 846H

Level: Honors Grades 11, 12 Second semester 1/2 credit

Placement determined jointly by faculty and student

HerStory is a semester-long course that deals with current issues, topics, and concerns facing women of today, here in the United States as well as worldwide. The goals of the course include: critically reflecting on viewpoints of current issues, communicating your thoughts effectively, familiarizing you with the accomplishments of influential women, and most importantly, developing your own voice as a woman in today's society. Activities include daily class discussions, presentations, Pro-Activism projects, interviews, and a culminating autobiography project. HerStory is college-level course with a dual-credit option (3 hours) in conjunction with The College of Mount Saint Joseph.

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Course 853

Level: Open Grade 10, 11,12 Second semester 1/2 credit

This course will explore the literary highlights of the 20th and 21st centuries, including some hot-off-the-presses pieces. The students will be encouraged to discover how current literature, both fiction and non-fiction, is portraying modern society. Also included will be extensive critical writing, research, and college-test preparation. Offered 2013-2014.

CREATIVE WRITING

Course 847

Level: Open Grades 10, 11, 12 Second semester 1/2 credit

Placement determined jointly by faculty and student

This course is designed to introduce students to the craft of short fiction and poetry writing. Through extensive analysis of current writers, students will discern the elements of short fiction (narrative voice, plot, characterization) and poetic forms (diction, imagery, sound) and begin incorporating those elements into their own original writings. Students will complete two short pieces of short fiction and multiple works of poetry throughout the semester. In addition to creative pieces, each student will also complete a research paper and a power point presentation on a current writer and his/her work. Vocabulary building and the mechanics of poetry/fiction writing including grammar and punctuation will also be emphasized. Offered in 2013-14

SHAKESPEARE

Course 849H

Level: Honors Grade 11, 12 Second semester 1/2 credit

Placement determined jointly by faculty and student.

This course will involve an in-depth study of several of Shakespeare's plays, which may include Hamlet, Merchant of Venice, and Richard III, as well as one or more plays of the student's choosing. Students will be expected to actively participate in discussions and performance, engage in research, and write critical reflections. Offered 2013-2014.

ENGLISH ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses may be selected for enrichment but will not count as required English graduation credit. In addition to the publication courses listed below, Focused Selection courses beyond the minimum number may be taken as elective credit with the understanding that the requirements for the course are the same as when taken for required credit.

YEARBOOK

Course 860

Grades 10, 11, 12 Elective credit Full year 1 credit

Prerequisite: Acceptance of submitted application to English Department

This class prepares and publishes the yearbook, which records the school year in pictures and words. Students will work with advanced desktop publishing software as they learn principles of layout and design. Students will also learn some principles

of photography, picture cropping, and photo editing skills on the computer. Other elements of the course include journalistic writing, copy-editing, financial management, and marketing. Accuracy and dependability, initiative, and computer skills are essential qualities of yearbook students. Class size is limited. The course may be repeated for credit.

DIGITAL JOURNALISM

Course 862	Full Year	1 credit
Course 862S	Semester	½ credit
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12	Elective credit	

Get involved in the new journalism class and have fun with a flip camera filming game highlights, student council minutes, rehearsals, and more. Develop your footage into a package and post it on *Etcetera* online. Keep up with current events in the world, nation, community and Mercy and delve into issues that concern you and other students with your in-depth articles that will be published in the print version of the *Etcetera*. Do interviews, take pictures, create layouts, write, and learn about this exciting and evolving communication field. This course offers flexible scheduling options: it may be taken multiple years and semesters and even for independent study.

READING SUPPORT

Course 870	
Open to Grades 9, 10, 11, 12	Time to be arranged.

Student placement in this class is based on recommendation and test data. The course has been established to provide remediation in the necessary skills of reading. It is a practical and individualized program based on the specific needs of each student.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

The variety and balance of the curriculum offered in the arts is designed to give students the training, experience, skill and integrity that encourage them to make use of their creative abilities and to develop a well-rounded liberal arts background.

The Fine Arts Department strives

1. to inculcate in the student an appreciation of the arts;
2. to assist the student in expressing herself through the arts;
3. to integrate the heritage of the past and present with the future for the purpose of the transmission of culture;
4. to remove boundaries and allow students to explore aspects of life around them in new ways by connecting the arts with other disciplines.
5. to develop technology skills.

ART

FUNDAMENTALS OF ART

Course 701

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Year

1 Credit

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of drawing, design, painting, printmaking and clay. Fundamentals of Art must be taken prior to any other course except an Experience of Art. It is not necessary to know how to draw just a willingness to want to learn.

SENIOR ART

Course 704 – Advanced (2 weight)

Grade 12

Elective

Year

1 Credit

Prerequisite: Four semesters of Art (exceptions are made) and acceptance.

This class is designed for students intending to study in the field of art. It is ideal for students wishing to prepare a portfolio of work which can be used for college entrance and scholarship competitions. The course challenges the students to work in-depth, to go beyond their previous knowledge in a variety of media and in the creative thought process. *Extensive outside work is required.* Students must be disciplined and motivated.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART

AP 2-D DESIGN

AP 3-D DESIGN

AP DRAWING

Course 705 – AP (4 weight)

Grade 12

Elective

Year

1 Credit

Prerequisites: Four semesters of Art (preferred) and acceptance.

Students will choose one of the three AP disciplines early in the school year or in the summer prior to senior year. These courses enable highly motivated students to do college level work in studio art while still in high school. Candidates submit a comprehensive portfolio of work for evaluation at the end of the school year. *A.P. work involves a significant amount of time and commitment; extensive outside work is required. This class is designed solely for students seriously committed to studying art in the future. Portfolios must reflect high quality work.*

Guidelines for portfolios have been designed to accommodate a variety of interests and approaches to art. The 3 required sections of the portfolio include: *Quality* - the development of sense of excellence in art; *Concentration* - an in-depth, personal commitment to a particular artistic concern; *Breadth* - a variety of experiences in using the formal, technical and expressive means available to an artist. Students are expected to submit a portfolio to the A.P. program for evaluation and could receive college credit for their work.

LIFE DRAWING 1 and 2

Course 710

Grades 10, 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art

This course is the study of the human skeletal and muscle structure to help the student draw the human figure correctly. This class is highly recommended to sophomores and juniors.

GRAPHIC DESIGN 1 and 2

Course 713

Grades 10, 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art

This course explores basic design. Creative techniques are used to communicate visually and effectively. The class is product oriented requiring students to use their understanding of design principles to create ads, posters, identity logos, etc. Students receive an introduction to Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, and Adobe Illustrator.

PAINTING 1 and 2

Course 715

Grades 10, 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art

Students have the choice of working with oil or polymer paint. Exploration of the medium and various techniques are studied.

CERAMICS AND THREE D DESIGN 1 and 2

Course 720

Grades 10, 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art

This course deals with sculptural forms and pottery techniques. Plaster, wood and clay are some of the mediums in which work is done.

DRAWING AND WATERCOLOR 1 and 2

Course 722

Grades 10, 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art

Charcoal, pencil, ink, watercolor and various techniques of each medium are explored and mixed. This course is taught in alternate years beginning with 2013-14.

PRINTMAKING 1 and 2

Course 721

Grades 10, 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art.

This class explores various types of printmaking such as woodcut, etching, embossing and silkscreen. This course is offered in alternate years, beginning with 2012-13.

PHOTOGRAPHY 1 and 2

Course 727

Grades 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisites: Fundamentals of Art and 1 semester of any other art class prior to taking photography.

Emphasis in this class is on learning how to use a 35mm SLR camera, dark room techniques and fundamentals of photographic design. Digital photography and the use of Adobe Photoshop CS3 will also be introduced. The Art Department provides darkroom chemicals. Students must have a 35mm camera SLR. Students are responsible for the cost of all film (about one roll per week) and photographic paper, or approximately \$100 worth of materials.

AN EXPERIENCE OF ART

Course 730

Grades 11, 12 Elective Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for the student who will take only one semester of art and who does not plan to go on to other courses in the art program. The course includes a brief introduction to the elements and principles of design.

MUSIC

CHORAL MUSIC

Course 762 Year 1 credit

Course 762S Semester ½ credit

Grades 9, 10 Elective

Course 765 Year 1 credit

Course 765S Semester ½ credit

Grades 11, 12 Elective

Prerequisite: None

This course is a combination of choral music, sight-singing, music theory and music appreciation. Participation in all concerts is a requirement for each semester(s) that the class is taken.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Course 780

Grades 10, 11, 12 Elective Year 1/2 credit

Prerequisite: Students must audition.

This group meets a minimum of two hours a week after school. Enrollment in a chorus class is required for participation. Students perform at many in-school and community functions throughout the year. Solo singing and choreography are elements of the class and private voice lessons are required.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Course 782

Grades, 9, 10, 11, 12 Elective Year 1/4 credit

Handbell choir meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM for rehearsal. Players at any level of experience are welcome. This group will provide music at liturgies, recitals, and concerts.

(INSTRUMENTAL) MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Course 771 Year 1 Credit

Course 771S Semester ½ Credit

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Elective

Prerequisite: None

Playing an instrument is a great opportunity for any student to enrich their life and expand their boundaries. In this class you will learn how to play a wind instrument and how to read music. Master the basics of music that will allow you to learn guitar, drums or any instrument you could imagine by taking Music Performance. No prior music experience is required! Wind Instruments include: Trumpet, Trombone, Clarinet, Saxophone and Flute. Instruments are rented through Buddy Rogers music, or in some cases supplied through the school.

Any ladies that learn or have learned to play an instrument prior are invited to perform as a member of the Nationally Recognized Pride of La Salle Band Program. Students interested in this opportunity should contact Mr. Fischer with any questions: Bfischer@lasallehs.net

Also available at Mercy, although not for credit, are:

Private lessons in Voice. These are scheduled once/week for 30 minutes during study hall or after school. There is an additional fee paid directly to the teacher.

DRAMA

Theatre courses/drama creates an environment that fosters personal expression and worth, stresses the concept of teamwork and responsibility, and provides insight into human character. Principles and styles of acting are introduced as well as character development. An awareness of the body as the actress' instrument is also emphasized. The heart of the program is student involvement in the productions, attending theatre competition and conventions, and the staging and performance of theatrical events for the community and Mercy. Each student receives 35 theatre classes per year. Fee - \$95 per semester.

DRAMA 1

Course 791 Grade 9 Year ¼ credit

The basic elements of theatre such as ensemble acting, improvisation, pantomime and self-confidence building are introduced to the young actresses. Special emphasis is placed on scene work, improvisation, body movement and character development. An introduction to theatre production culminates in a freshman one-act play with performance to the community in which all are cast.

DRAMA 2

Course 792 Grade 10 Year ¼ credit

Building on the concepts and skills attained in Drama 1, this course expands and centers on stage movement and direction, improvisation, character development, scene work and stage combat activities. Special emphasis is placed on the collective and collaborative technical needs to produce a play. All sophomores in this course produce and perform a full length play/musical for the community.

DRAMA 3

Course 793 Grade 11 Year ¼ credit

Advanced acting skills through monologues and scene work are stressed at this level. Technical production and advanced improvisation are also taught. Audition material and theatrical vocabulary are stressed. Students at this level are encouraged to audition for performance and/or technical positions in the fall musical and spring play. Students also have the opportunity to attend Theatre festivals around Ohio, as well as compete at the Overture Awards, Shakespeare Competition and other competitive events.

DRAMA 4

Course 794 Grade 12 Year ¼ credit

Advanced acting work, the director's responsibilities and dramatic criticism are stressed at this level in addition to continued emphasis on advanced improvisation, professional scene work and body movement. Professional acting for children's performances is introduced. Additional study of technical theatre is made. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the major productions (fall musical/spring play), attend outside theatre conventions and act in the Senior Kids Tour performance. Students also have the opportunity to attend Theatre festivals around Ohio, as well as compete at the Overture Awards, Shakespeare Competition and other competitive events.

ADVANCED ACTING (2 weight)

Course 795 Grade 12 Semester ½ credit

Prerequisite: Completion of 2-3 years of Mercy drama or equivalent experience and concurrent enrollment in Drama 4.

This course is designed for those students who are interested in an intensive performing experience and exploring the acting process by developing the actor's improvisational, scene analysis, character development, audition and performance skills. Students explore various acting techniques that fuse intellect, imagination, voice, and body. Advanced Acting will also introduce the student to the fundamental rehearsal process culminating in performances of selected scenes at a final performance.

Advanced Acting is a semester course held at the College of Mount St. Joseph on Mondays from 3:15 – 6:00PM from August 27 – December 10, 2012. This course can be taken for dual credit and students will receive 3 semester hours in the area of Communications. Enrollment is limited to 10 students. Applications are available from Ms. Bodollo and must be returned by March 1.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Students are required to take two semesters of Physical Education and 1 semester of Health. If a student is unable to participate in more than 5 PE classes a quarter due to injury or illness, she will have to withdraw from the class and reschedule. Physically limited students must have a checklist of activities provided by the Physical Education Department signed by a doctor or parent/guardian. Since all Physical Education classes are Pass/Fail, students must have at least an 80% average to pass.

HEALTH

Course 320

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Required

Semester

1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: None

Health provides students with a practical knowledge of physical and mental health. The subject matter of this course includes nutrition, CPR and first aid, mental and emotional health, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and a thorough sex education.

NOTE: Students who elect to take Health through the Mercy Learning Online Program are required to attend classes on June 12, 13 and 14 from 5:00pm – 9:00pm. See your Guidance Counselor for details.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION A

Course 350

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Required

Semester

1/4 Credit

Prerequisite: None

In this semester course, students will participate in these units: golf, flag football, basketball, badminton, and lacrosse. They will also participate in physical fitness activities such as jogging, fitness walking, jumping rope, aerobics, yoga, Pilates, crunches, lifting weights, Wii Fit and stretching exercises.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - SUMMER

June 4 – 15 8:00am – 2:30pm

\$255 (includes activity fee)

1/4 credit.

May be taken only once as fulfillment of PE requirement.

Contact the Guidance Department for more information about registration and scheduling.

In this summer course the students will participate in the following units: Golf, Slow Pitch Softball, Speed-a-Way, Badminton, Basketball, Self Defense, and Soccer. The students will also participate in fitness activities such as daily fitness walking, strength training, aerobics, and yoga. Students will go off campus to bowl, swim, golf, and participate in activities at Miami Whitewater Park and Great American Ball Park. Final grade based on written tests, skill tests, and participation.

LIFETIME ACTIVITIES

Course 360

Grades 11, 12

2nd Semester

1/4 Credit

This course may be used for PE required credit or as an elective.

This Physical Education course emphasizes recreational sports and outdoor education. Some recreational sports included are racquetball, tennis, ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee golf, ice skating, and bowling. Outdoor education encompasses camping, backpacking, rock climbing, hiking, and a National Parks project. There is also a concentration on Women's Issues in Athletics. Some sports and activities require field trips and off-campus travel. There is a \$50 activity fee for off campus activities.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The mathematics program at Mercy is designed to meet the needs of all our students and prepare them for the necessary college mathematics courses in their field of study. We encourage each student to consider her ability, goals and motivation, along with the teacher recommendation, when choosing her math course. The sequence outlines the four-year math program.

All math students are required to have a TI-83 or 84 graphing calculator.

Any incoming freshman who has taken an Algebra 1 course in grade school is strongly encouraged to take our Geometry placement test. This test assesses knowledge of Algebra 1 material and will be administered in the spring. A list of topics is available from the Math Department Chairperson.

ALGEBRA 1

Course 112 CP 2

Grades 9 Year 1 credit

Placement based on records and recommendation

In this course, standard Algebra skills are introduced and developed. The topics include: real number system, linear equations and inequalities, compound inequalities, functions, slope and equation of lines, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents, radicals and polynomials. Some students registered for this course will be required to have math support throughout the year.

*NOTE: Only 114 Algebra 1 provides the necessary preparation for College Algebra/ Trig or Pre-Calculus

HONORS ALGEBRA 1

Course 114

Grade 9 Year 1 credit

Placement based on records and recommendation

This course will introduce students to higher level high school work and can lead to Advanced Geometry/Algebra 2 or Honors Geometry placement in the sophomore year. The same material as in other Algebra 1 courses will be covered but in greater depth and a faster pace. Students are also be introduced to some Algebra 2 concepts.

GEOMETRY

Course 122 CP 2 123 Honors

Grades 9, 10, 11 Year 1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Recommendation

This course stresses the basic structure of geometry including, line, angle, triangle and circle relationships, polygons, right triangle, trigonometry, area and volume of plane and solid figures. Algebra skills are integrated within the context of the geometric concepts.

ADVANCED GEOMETRY/ALGEBRA 2

Course 124 Advanced (2 weight)

Grades 9, 10 Year 1 credit

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 1 and Recommendation

This course stresses the basic structure of geometry including, line, angle, triangle and circle relationships, polygons, right triangle trigonometry, unit circle trigonometry, area and volume of plane and solid figures. Algebra 1 skills are integrated within the context of the geometric concepts. Additional topics in Algebra 2 will be covered including the complex number system, polynomial functions, radical functions and rational exponents,

ALGEBRA 2

Course 132 CP2 133 Honors

Grades 10,11,12 Year 1 credit

Prerequisite: Geometry and Recommendation

The goals of these course are to prepare students to work with more advanced mathematics and to give them the basic tools to apply Algebra in other courses of study. There is a major emphasis on identifying, graphing and solving quadratic equations. It is an expansion of the topics mastered in Algebra 1 along with applications

*NOTE: Only 133 Algebra 2 includes trigonometry and provides the necessary preparation for College Algebra/ Trig or Pre-Calculus as well as Physics.

FOUNDATIONS OF COLLEGE ALGEBRA

Course 140 CP2

Grade 12 First Semester 1/2 credit

Prerequisite: An average of 80% in Algebra 2 and recommendation

This is a one semester course intended for the students who wish to benefit from a fourth year of math for continued preparation for college. Although the pace and depth of content is less than College Algebra and Pre-Calculus, it is a fourth year math class and therefore challenging. The course can be paired with Foundations of Probability and Statistics in 2nd Semester for a full credit. Or they may be taken independent of each other. Topics include exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric functions as well as sequence and series.

FOUNDATIONS OF PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS

Course 141 CP2

Grade 12 Second Semester 1/2 credit

Prerequisite: An average of 80% in Algebra 2 and recommendation

This is a one semester course intended for the students who wish to benefit from a fourth year of math for continued preparation for college. Although the pace and depth of content is less than College Algebra and Pre-Calculus, it is a fourth year math class and therefore challenging. The course can be paired with Foundations of College Algebra in 1st Semester for a full year course. Or they may be taken independent of each other. This course will be a study of probability and statistics.

COLLEGE ALGEBRA AND TRIGONOMETRY

Course 151 Honors

Grades 10, 11,12 Year 1 credit

Prerequisites: Advanced Geometry/Algebra 2 or an average of 85% in Honors Algebra 2 and recommendation of teacher.

This course is designed for the Honors math student who wishes to advance her studies in math in preparation for college, without the abstract and rigorous curriculum of Pre-Calculus. It will continue to build on and integrate all prior Algebra topics as well as introduce the following topics: polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, rational functions, sequence and series, and trigonometry.

PRE-CALCULUS

Course 144 Advanced (2 weight)

Grades 10, 11, 12 Year 1 credit

Prerequisites: 85% average in Advanced Geometry/Alg 2 or 90% average in Honors Algebra 2 and recommendation of teacher.

This course is in preparation for students intending to take Calculus or enter into a technical field of math or science. It is a rigorous study and expansion of topics mastered in Algebra 2 including properties and graphs of functions, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, logarithmic and sequential functions, trigonometric functions and identities, and vectors. Applications for the previous topics will be a major component of this class.

STATISTICS 1

Course 152 Advanced (2 weight)

Grades 11, 12 Elective First Semester 1/2 credit

Prerequisite: Honors Algebra 2 or Advanced Geometry/Algebra 2

The focus of this course is learning the different data collection techniques and the many ways to organize, interpret, and present statistical information. The uses and misuses of statistics will be discussed. There will be an introduction to probability. Counting rules and discrete probability distributions will be applied. This course may be taken concurrently with another math course.

STATISTICS 2

Course 153 Advanced (2 weight)
 Grades 11, 12 Elective Second Semester 1/2 credit
 Prerequisite: Statistics 1

This course is an extension of Statistics 1. Topics include understanding the normal distribution, confidence intervals and sample sizes, hypothesis testing, correlation and regression, and other analysis and testing procedures.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS (AB)

Course 155 AP (4 weight)
 Grade 11, 12 Elective Year 1 Credit
 Prerequisites: An average of 85 in Pre-calculus and Recommendation

This is an intensive course in Differential and Integral Calculus. It is the culmination and integration of all previous math courses. Applications to real problems are used throughout the year. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement (AB) Test or register for dual credit.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CALCULUS (BC)

Course 156 AP (4 weight)
 Grade 12 Elective Second Semester 1/2 credit
 Prerequisites: Successful completion of AP Calculus AB

This course is a one semester extension of AP Calculus (AB). Topics from the AB course will be briefly reviewed as new topics are introduced and learned. Applications to real problems are used throughout the semester. Students are expected to take the AP Calculus (BC) Test or register for dual credit. Students will meet with the instructor during a common free time arranged during the day.

MATH SUPPORT

Course 160
 Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Elective Time to be arranged
 Prerequisites: Recommendation and/or testing

**MOTHER of MERCY
Mathematics Curriculum**

FRESHMAN

SOPHOMORE

JUNIOR

SENIOR

Algebra 1 (112)

▶ **Geometry (122)**

▶ **Algebra 2 (132)**

▶ **Foundations of College Alg (140)(semester)**
 ▼ **Foundations of Prob & Stat (141)(semester)**

◀ **Honors Geometry (123)**

▶ **Honors Algebra 2 (133)**

▶ **College Algebra/Trig (151)**

Honors Algebra 1 (114)

▼ **College Algebra/Trig (151)**

▲ **Pre-Calculus (144)**

▲ **Statistics 1 (152) and Statistics 2 (153)**

▲ **Adv Geometry/Alg 2 (124)**

▶ **Pre-Calculus (144)**

▶ **Statistics 1 (152) and Statistics 2 (153)**

▲ **A.P. Calculus AB (155)**

****Honors Geometry (123)**

▶ **Honors Algebra 2 (133)**

▶ **College Algebra/Trig (151)**

▶ **Statistics 1 (152) and Statistics 2 (153)**

▲ **Pre-Calculus (144)**

▶ **A.P. Calculus AB (155)**

****Adv Geometry/Alg 2 (124)**

▶ **Pre-Calculus (144)**

▶ **A.P. Calculus AB (155)**

▶ **Statistics 1 (152) and Statistics 2 (153)**
 ▶ **A.P. Calculus BC (156) (2nd semester)**

****Students who have successfully completed Algebra 1 in 8th grade are strongly encouraged to test into Geometry.**

Statistics 1 is only offered first semester and may be taken concurrently with another math course if prerequisites are met.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The task of religious education is to hand on the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the spirit and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. The course of studies is intended to address the needs of the total person. For this reason the program is two-fold: 1) informational in presenting the students with the teachings of the Church, as rooted in doctrine and Scripture, and 2) formational in helping the students see the need to develop an active life of faith. Regardless of a student's religious affiliation, she is required to take a religion course every semester. In the spirit of ecumenism, Mercy finds the richness of other traditions to be an asset to religious education classes.

The program of Religious Education follows all the guidelines set forth in the Curriculum Guidelines for Secondary Education by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

- Freshmen - Old Testament and New Testament
- Sophomores - Church and Christian Justice
- Juniors - Morality and Elective
- Seniors - Comparative Religions and Elective

OLD TESTAMENT

Course 211

Grade 9	Required	First Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: None

This course studies the purpose, development, and message of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) in the light of faith and in the light of the most current scriptural scholarship. Students are enabled to see connections between their world and the world of the Israelite people.

NEW TESTAMENT

Course 212

Grade 9	Required	Second Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to look at the person of Jesus, His life and His teachings. With a particular focus on the Gospels, students are encouraged to examine the modern day issues that confront Christians.

CHURCH

Course 221

Grade 10	Required	First Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on the development of the Church throughout history, in particular its triumphs and failures, its mutual interaction with culture, and the significant figures that have shaped the Church.

CHRISTIAN JUSTICE

Course 222

Grade 10	Required	Second Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: None

This course examines the Christian social responsibility as evidenced in Scripture, Church Tradition and the Church's contemporary teaching about justice issues such as poverty, hunger, war, the elderly, capital punishment, racism and sexism. Students will complete service hours in the local community through their Sophomore Retreat and this course.

MORALITY

Course 231

Grade 11	Required	First Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: None

Christian morality is concerned with the way a person lives and expresses her Christianity in order to live a true and full human life. The student is helped to achieve a better awareness and a more mature understanding of morality in order to make wise, more loving moral judgments and to live according to her moral convictions.

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

Course 241

Grade 12 Required First Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: None

This course studies the major world religions: Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism and religions of Japan and China. The course begins with an overview of Catholicism (doctrine, teachings, rituals and history). It also explores selected North American denominations. For each religion the student examines the history, faith content, religious practices, rituals and common themes that run through all religions.

Second Semester Electives

Juniors and seniors select one of the following for their semester elective. One elective is chosen for the second semester of the junior year and another for the second semester of the senior year.

1. Spirituality and Prayer (seniors only)
2. Healing and Hope
3. Christianity and the Arts
4. Lifestyles

SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER

Course 252

Grade 12 Elective Second Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: None

This course explores the legacy of prayer from the Catholic tradition. Students learn to pray through guided meditations, dreams, journal writing, painting, drawing, sculpting and nature walks. The purpose of the course is to guide students towards spirituality both inward and outward with progression toward recognizing, celebrating and loving the God in others.

HEALING AND HOPE

Course 262

Grades 11, 12 Elective Second Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to treat the human and faith dimensions of the reality of suffering and loss in our lives. In light of this reality, six areas are stressed: the physical reality of death, the psychology of loss and the role of faith in dealing with loss, the historical role of the Church and death rituals, other cultural rituals, the afterlife, and contemporary issues of loss such as divorce, the elderly, and euthanasia.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE ARTS

Course 272

Grades 11, 12 Elective Second Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: None

Students explore the different aspects of Christianity through the visual arts, music and dance. Art as created through history is studied to show the many ways people have used art to express their inner convictions about God. Students have the opportunity of creating their own forms of art. Minimal art supplies are required and supplied by the students.

LIFESTYLES

Course 282

Grade 11, 12 Elective Second Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisites: None

This course, grounded in Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body" and focuses on the life themes of identity and personal development, autonomy, love, communication, sexuality, work, possessions and leisure as "building-blocks" to the future. In addition, the student studies the lifestyle options of the married, single and religious life.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science is the study of the natural world. All courses make extensive use of laboratory experiences and promote inquiry. Concepts of technology are deeply integrated into all courses. The Science Department curriculum emphasizes critical thinking skills, the development of positive attitudes toward scientific enterprise, and a thorough understanding of the interrelationships among science, technology, and society. The department requires 3 years of science and recommends four years.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE - AN ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH

Course 511 - College Prep 1	512 - College Prep 2	
Grade 9	Year	1 Credit
Required		
Placement based on records		

Environmental Science is a multi-disciplinary course analyzing modern issues. The material builds from the grade school science experience unifying concepts of earth-space science, life science and physical science into one integrated environmental package.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE - AN ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH

Course 513 – Honors 1	514 – Honors 2	
Grade 9	Year	1 Credit
Required		
Placement based on records		

These levels will introduce students to advanced-level high school work and can lead to Advanced Placement science courses. The course is multi-disciplinary analyzing modern environmental issues using critical thinking skills and the analysis of real data sets to analyze controversial environmental problems and clearly and confidently express educated opinions through research projects, laboratory reports and formal presentations.

BIOLOGY

Course 521 - College Prep 1	522 - College Prep 2	523 - Honors (extended lab time)
Grades 10, 11, 12	Year	1 Credit
Elective		
Prerequisites: Integrated Science and Recommendation		

Biology studies all living things--their structure and functions as well as their relationships to one another and to their environment. The scientific method is used to illustrate the theoretical concepts concerning living things.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT BIOLOGY (Extended Lab Time)

Course 525 – AP (4 weight)		
Grades 11, 12	Year	1 Credit
Elective		
Prerequisites: Integrated Science, Chemistry and Recommendation		

This nationally designed curriculum allows the student to take a college biology course and receive college credit in high school. The course is rigorous and requires extra time and effort. Students are expected to take the A.P. Biology exam or register for dual credit (6 hours) from Thomas More College.

CHEMISTRY IN THE COMMUNITY

Course 532 - College Prep 2		
Grades 11, 12	Year	1 Credit
Elective		
Prerequisites: Integrated Science and Recommendation		

Chem Com is a course in consumer chemistry designed for the student who wishes to focus on applied chemistry in the real world.

HONORS CHEMISTRY (Extended Lab Time)

Course 533 - Honors		
Grades 11, 12	Year	1 Credit
Elective		
Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Recommendation, Algebra 2 as co requisite		

Honors Chemistry is a laboratory course which investigates the composition and structure of matter and the changes that matter undergoes. This course is essential for students considering a career in science or health technology.

ADVANCED CHEMISTRY (Extended Lab Time)

Course 534 – Advanced (2 weight)

Grades 10, 11 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and 2 and Recommendation

This chemistry class includes all topics covered in the regular chemistry class above. More extensive experimentation and research into advanced topics are additional requirements for the course.

HONORS PHYSICS (Extended Lab Time)

Course 553 - Honors

Grade 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 – 133 and Chemistry

Honors Physics is a science which studies the interaction of matter and energy. This course includes the topics of straight-line motion, circular motion, forces, heat, light, sound, electricity, and magnetism. Applications of these concepts in other fields such as physiology, athletics, art, and music will be included where appropriate. The course will include numerous demonstrations and labs. Students should have a solid foundation in basic algebra, geometry, and right triangle trigonometry.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT PHYSICS (Extended Lab Time)

Course 555 – AP (4 weight)

Grade 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisites: Pre-calculus, Chemistry and Recommendation

This nationally designed curriculum allows the student to take a college Physics class and receive college credit in high school. This course is rigorous and requires extra time and effort. Students are expected to take the A.P. exam.

HUMAN BIOLOGY (A, B)

Course 560 and 561

Grades 11, 12 Elective A 1st Semester, B 2nd Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisites: Biology and Recommendation

Human Biology explores the anatomy and physiology of the human body. These courses are useful to students who are interested in health careers. Students may take either semester or both.

Human Biology A - Topics covered include: Introduction to the language of anatomy and integumentary, skeletal, muscular and nervous systems.

Human Biology B - Topics covered include: Endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive and urinary systems, and immunology.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Course 562

Grades 11, 12 Elective Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisite: Biology

Anthropology is the holistic study of humans. Although the subject matter is divided into the conventional broad areas of physical anthropology, archeology and cultural anthropology, an attempt is made to integrate the topics so as to show their interrelatedness.

ENGINEERING YOUR FUTURE: AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING

Course 563

Grade 10, 11, 12 Elective Semester 1/2 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry, Environmental Science and Chemistry (may be a corequisite)

This semester long course explores many fields of engineering. Engineering is the application of math, science and technology in solving the world's design problems. The course includes guest speakers, field trips, and lectures video streamed from the University of Cincinnati professors. The approach will be project based emphasizing teamwork.

OCEANOGRAPHY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Course 564

Grade 11, 12

Elective

2nd Semester

½ credit

Prerequisite: 2 years of science

As a model of 21st century learning, this class will be delivered using virtual tools such as Blackboard, iTunes U, iBooks, Discovery Learning. The class will meet face to face for 45 minutes each week but the majority of the course work will be accomplished independently. The students will keep an oceanographers log to record observations, experiments, collaborative problem solving and explorations.

This course will appear on the students' schedule at a designated time but face to face meetings will occur once week at 7:00-7:45am.

MOTHER of MERCY
Science Curriculum

FRESHMAN

SOPHOMORE

JUNIOR

SENIOR

Environmental Science (511)



Biology (521)



▶ Chem Com (532)

▶ Electives

Environmental Science (512)



Biology (522)



▶ Chemistry Honors (533)

▶ Physics Honors (553)

Environmental Science Honors1 (513)



Honors Biology (523)



Advanced Chemistry (534)



A.P. Physics (555)

Environmental Science Honors2 (514)



Advanced Chemistry(534)

▶ Honors Biology (523)



Physics (553)



A.P. Biology (525)



A.P. Physics (555)



SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The main goals of the Social Studies program are to teach students the ways institutions, ideas and customs have developed, an appreciation of diversity among peoples, an appreciation of the American Heritage, ways of coping with continual change, and the assumption of responsibility as a citizen and future leader. The following social studies courses are required: World History, U. S. History, American Government and Contemporary World Issues. All other courses are electives, at least one of which is required for graduation.

Sequence of Required Courses for Social Studies

- 1 semester World History (Honors) or US History (CP) in grade 9
- 1 semester World History (CP) or 2 semesters US History in grade 10 OR AP US History in grade 11
- 1 semester US Government in grade 12
- 1 semester Contemporary World Issues in grade 12
- 1 semester Social Studies elective in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12

WORLD HISTORY

912 – College Prep	913 - Honors		
Grades 9 or 10	Required	Semester	1/2 Credit

Placement based on records

This course begins with a study of The Enlightenment and its connections to the American, French, and Latin American Revolutions; the social, political, and economic effects of Industrialization; and the causes and effects of imperialism and conflict (World War I, World War II, and the Cold War) in the 20th century. As preparation for the Ohio Graduation Test, emphasis will be placed on the development of skills in writing, reading geography, and critical thinking (analysis and interpretation of events, patterns, and themes).

UNITED STATES HISTORY

922A/922B - College Prep	923 - Honors		
Grade 9 or 10	Required	2 semesters	1 Credit

Placement based on records

Beginning with the class of 2016, College Prep level students will take 1 semester of US History in their Freshmen year and the remaining semester during their Sophomore Year.

In this course students study the US in the 19th and 20th centuries. Students examine the US Constitution as a living document, the causes and effects of industrialization, the rise of the US as a world power, US conflicts (World War I, World War II, Cold War), the effects of immigration, economics, and politics on the shaping of public policy, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. As preparation for the Ohio Graduation Test, emphasis is placed on writing, reading, geography, and critical thinking (analysis and interpretation of events, patterns and themes).

ADVANCED PLACEMENT UNITED STATES HISTORY (AMERICAN STUDIES)

Course 935 - AP (Scheduled with 835 Junior English – 4 weight)			
Grade 11	Required	Year	1 Credit

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

This course is taken in conjunction with Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition in a two-period time block, earning one credit each in English and US History. The course probes in depth the ideas, issues and themes of the American experience through an examination of our nation's history and literature. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement US History test or register for dual credit through the College of Mt. St. Joseph.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Courses 942 – CP	943 - Honors		
Grade 12	Required	1 st Semester	1/2 Credit

Placement based on records

This course is a study of the foundations, theory, structure and process of government. Students analyze the Constitution, voting, elections, political parties, interest groups, Congress, the Presidency, the Courts and current political issues, and participate in the political process. Service hours are also expected.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT US GOVERNMENT

Course 945 – AP (4 weight)
 Grade 12 Required 2nd Semester 1/2 credit
 Placement based on records.

This course is for the highly motivated, politically astute student. Using the nationally designed AP curriculum, the course elaborates on the US Government class and allows the student to earn college credit while in high school. Students are expected to take the AP exam. Service hours are also expected.

CONTEMPORARY WORLD ISSUES

Course 946
 Grades 12 Required Semester 1/2 Credit
 Prerequisite: None

Developed as a “hands on class”, students have the opportunity to explore world issues of political, environmental and economic importance in order to develop a sense of collaboration and a world vision. The course utilizes a variety of methodologies such as speakers, selected readings, media, technology, and traditional instruction. Each student is expected to create a multidimensional anthology/portfolio portraying an analysis of a topic of her choice and her understanding of the relationship between the core Mercy values and her responsibility as a citizen of the world. Service hours are also expected.

PSYCHOLOGY

Course 948
 Grades 10, 11, 12 Elective Semester 1/2 Credit
 Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to basic concepts in Psychology, with an emphasis on human behavior. Topics include learning, motivation, sensation, perception, memory, personality and thinking.

ECONOMICS AND MARKETING

Course 947
 Grades 10, 11, 12 Elective Semester 1/2 Credit
 Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction to the basic theories of economics with an emphasis on marketing and entrepreneurship (private enterprise). Key marketing concepts will include: supply and demand, opportunity and cost benefits, and the effect of recessions and depressions on economic growth. The importance of personal financing such as loans, credit, saving and personal budgeting will be incorporated through the study of entrepreneurship. Working in conjunction with Junior Achievement, students will have an opportunity to develop a prototype of an original product from conception to construction. This course will NOT be offered in 2012-13.

GEOGRAPHY: HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Course 950
 Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Elective Semester 1/2 Credit

This multi-disciplinary class uses a variety of internet resources and hands-on activities to allow students to gain a well-rounded view of globalization. Students will explore the relationship between location, movement, region, culture, and politics with regards to geographical boundaries. Internal and external associations will be utilized to facilitate an outreach program (i.e. guest speakers, local refugees, immigrants, and mission trips.)

CINCINNATI - summer only

Initial class meeting on June 25 and final exam on July 27; online work and participation in 4 of the 5 offered field trips scheduled throughout the summer is required.

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Elective Semester 1/2 Credit
 Prerequisite: None Cost: \$255 (includes field trip fees)

This local history course pursues the development of city life through the study of Cincinnati - history, geography, culture, economy, political and social life - using as resources newspapers, historic documents, books, audio-visual, speakers, maps and the buildings of Cincinnati.

See your Guidance Counselor or Social Studies teacher for more information and registration.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Technology Department offers a broad and rigorous program to teach students to use the most current technology, improve their “Tech-Agile Quotient” (TQ) each year and become confident, innovative and adaptable in using digital technologies. Our classes are held in one of three of our multi-platform labs, using current desktop, laptop, tablet, and server technology, as well as our Video Production and Broadcast Studio.

COMPUTER LITERACY

Course 010

Grades 9	Required	Year	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisites: None

This survey course prepares students for the technological rigors of a Mercy education, beginning with foundational skills required to work in our multi-platform environment that includes PC and MAC desktops, laptops, iPads and more. Topics will include keyboarding, operating systems, file management, as well as building on skills in productivity applications. Students will develop critical thinking and logic skills through an introduction of programming, while creating media-rich content in MovieMaker, Prezi, PhotoStory, and more. The course will wrap up with a mini course in Financial Literacy to meet Ohio graduation requirements. The course meets for 45 minutes every other day for the year.

ADVANCED COMPUTER APPS

Course 020

Grades 10, 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 Credit
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Prerequisite: Computer Literacy

Given the ever growing presence of mobile applications and devices, this course incorporates an introduction to programming and advanced computer applications, with the ultimate outcome of students building mobile apps for the iOS (iPod, iPad) and Android platforms. Students will explore media-rich content creation – using web tools like wiki’s, blogging, podcasting and video-journaling – creating content for asynchronous learning and reinforcing interpersonal and collaborative communication skills. The course will also incorporate elements of robots and microcontrollers, computer languages like Java, mobile app development, and examine the realms of computer science as a field of study.

WEB PAGE DESIGN

Course 030

Grades 10, 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 Credit
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Students will learn about style and design elements, history of and trends related to the web. Classes will include lessons on how to create webpages, create and manipulate tables, insert links, add graphics and design professional looking web sites. Basic HTML will be taught as well as software programs such as Dreamweaver, Flash, and Photoshop. This course will provide students with the opportunity to design their own websites, learn mobile page development and assist in maintaining certain components of Mercy’s Web Site. Students will also be building 21st century skills such as collaborating with peers and using technology to compile, synthesize, produce, and disseminate information and creative works. A 2nd level course is available for recommended students. See the course instructor for details.

BROADCAST ARTS

Course 040

Grades 10, 11, 12	Elective	Semester	1/2 credit
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This course will provide students with the opportunities to be creative and express themselves using digital tools and at the same time, reinforce basic skills such as researching, reading, writing, and speaking. Students will also learn the proper techniques of shooting digital video including lighting, sound, storyboards, and interviewing and how to use the equipment needed to produce live television broadcasts. They will also develop their skills in video editing using software such as iMovie.

Students will be required to assist with morning television announcements. Select students will have the opportunity to announce and stream Mercy athletic events. Students are also expected to videotape identified Mercy activities during and after school. A 2nd level course is available for recommended students. See the course instructor for details.

ACCOUNTING

Course 050

Grades 10, 11 12 Elective Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisites: None

Accounting provides opportunities to learn the language and problems of business. Major areas of study include: principles of debit and credit, nature of accounts, journalizing, posting, preparation of financial statements, and the use of various types of journals and ledgers. Students also learn to apply their accounting knowledge to computer usage by using an automated accounting program on PC computers and by completing a business simulation. This course is highly recommended to college-bound students planning to pursue a career in accounting or business administration.

WORLD OF BUSINESS: The Mini MBA

Course 080

Grade 10, 11, 12 Elective Semester 1/2 Credit

Prerequisites: None

When students think about career paths, they sometimes rule out the possibility of starting and managing their own business. In this course, students will develop a business idea, write a SBA business plan, and develop a conceptual business with cost frameworks, and more, including topics of accounting, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, international business, management science, marketing, operations management, organizational behavior, project management, real estate, and strategy. Skills are reinforced in several case studies and simulations from Virtual Retail Business, to INC magazines courseware, to supply chain simulations developed at Harvard and MIT. The course will have guest speakers and field trips from the banking industry and local small businesses.

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Learning a second language has many social and academic benefits. Modern world language skills are an academic and social necessity in order to succeed in our ever-shrinking world. As citizens of this world, our students will need to communicate, understand others and compete in a global environment. Second language learning also impacts current and future academic success. Educational research shows that language learning correlates with higher academic achievement in the following areas: standardized tests such as the ACT and SAT, the ability to hypothesize in science class, reading ability, memory skills, problem solving, understanding the English language. There is also direct correlation between high school language study and higher academic performance at the university level. Students entering Mercy with previous language background and who request to take a level other than French 1 or Spanish 1 will be tested before placement is finalized.

For all language classes, students are required to use online practice exercises that accompany their textbook.

FRENCH 1

Course 411

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Recommendation

The four communication skills are introduced in French I - listening, speaking, reading and writing. Vocabulary acquisition, study of grammar, pronunciation, and listening and conversation activities are used. In addition, students are introduced to the various topics of Francophone culture through the textbook as well as authentic media materials.

FRENCH 2

Course 412

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisite: Successful completion of French 1

French 2 further develops the four basic language skills. Students are encouraged to use French as the means of communication in class.

FRENCH 3

Course 413

Grades 10, 11, 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisites: An average of 85% in French 2 and Recommendation

Speaking and writing skills are honed and evaluated through the use of various project-based assessments. The course includes an in-depth study of a French novel, a review of grammar, and the introduction of advanced grammar constructions. Digital story-telling is used as a means of reinforcing presentation skills in the target language.

FRENCH 4/5 AND AP FRENCH PREPARATION

Course: 414 - Advanced (2 weight)

Grades 11, 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisites: French 3 and Recommendation

The focus of this course is to further refine listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Vocabulary acquisition and advanced grammar are highlighted through authentic materials and various literary works. French is the primary language of the class and students are required to maintain an online blog in the target language. Students in French 4/5 are given the opportunity to prepare and take the Advanced Placement Exam and/or receive dual credit up to 12 credit hours through Thomas More College.

SPANISH 1

Course 461

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisites: Recommendation

The goal of first-year Spanish is to provide the students with the fundamentals of the Spanish language through the study of vocabulary and grammatical structure. Emphasis is placed on proper pronunciation, oral communication and reading comprehension. An appreciation of Hispanic culture is cultivated through various projects.

SPANISH 2

Course 462

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish 1

The objectives of this course are to enlarge vocabulary, to continue development of aural-oral skills, to develop reading and writing skills and to encourage interest in the cultural background of the Spanish-speaking people.

SPANISH 3

Course 463

Grades 11, 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisites: An average of 85% in Spanish 2 and Recommendation

More advanced grammar, short readings and the history and geography of Spain are blended in this course to appeal to students who have mastered the basics of the language. Vocabulary builders, compositions and conversation are blended to increase communication.

SPANISH 4/5 AND AP SPANISH PREPARATION

Course: 464 - Advanced (2 weight)

Grades 11, 12 Elective Year 1 Credit

Prerequisites: Spanish 3 and Recommendation

This course combines the geography and history of Latin America with an emphasis on reading and writing. The reading selections are authored by Latin American writers who represent all genres. Included are detailed questions on the readings,

grammar and vocabulary drills and creative exercises to develop composition and discussion skills. Spanish is the primary language of the class. Students in Spanish 4/5 are given the opportunity to prepare and take the Advanced Placement Exam.

LATIN 1 (On-line)

Course: 421C

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Year

1 Credit

Prerequisites: None

This course, taught through the Mercy Learning On Line program, will be a full year, asynchronous on line learning experience. It may be taken for elective credit only – not World Language credit – and will be scheduled as two of the students’ maximum 16 semesters. The course will include dialogue (through Skype), reading, vocabulary, the structure of Latin, exercises in Latin, etymology, culture, architecture, food, and housing. An additional fee will be charged, final cost to be determined proportional to enrollment. Students must be prepared to be independent learners, willing to devote the same amount of time to this class as any traditional course in their schedule. Periodic meetings with a faculty advisor will be held.

LATIN 2 (On-line)

Course: 422C

Grades 10, 11, 12

Elective

Year

1 Credit

Prerequisites: Latin 1

A continuation of the reading, vocabulary, and culture studies presented on Latin 1. The same expectations and requirements apply. See your Guidance Counselor for more information.